

PETERSBURG, VA., November 18, 1877.

Editors Dispatch. The poem in to-day's Dispatch, "From Songs of Three Centuries," by an unknown author, was the first line in each of your recondite disquisitions in the original, which read, "When the grass grows over me," &c.

We return thanks to our correspondent. Can he tell us who wrote the poem beginning, "My heart aches for thee, for thee, for thee, beloved," &c., which appeared in last Tuesday's issue of the Dispatch?

The "Old Swan."—Another Anecdote.

To your amusing anecdote touching the grand opening of the "Old Swan," "without money and without credit," I propose to add the "finale."

Stebbins & Pullen, well-known china merchants, doing business opposite the "Swan," naturally desirous of seeing a flourish established in that part of the city, advanced to "Jack," on time, the china necessary for the establishment. It did not take very long to test the experiment. One evening "Jack" and that "break-up" must take place. The next morning, as he passed Stebbins & Pullen's he quietly opened the door and called out in a loud tone, "Boys, did you know the old 'Swan' had 'gone up,' and rapidly passed on."

Now, I hope and believe that Major Johnston's effort to build the Clifton Forge road, "without money and without credit" will have a very different termination from the experiment made in the "Old Swan."

For the Dispatch.

Miscellaneous Work. Mrs. Comstock says missionary work for the mothers of Richmond lies at their very door if they will only see it, only in another form—trying to reform the colored women of the city. But how to begin? Many white families rent their colored rooms and give up their hand to colored people. They should see that none but lawfully-married people occupied them.

What can teachers in schools do with children brought up where evil is practiced, and what can their clerical friends do with the white people and colored families? They should see that none but lawfully-married people occupied them.

Richmond, November 18, 1877.

The Infinitive Moon.—The proposition attached to a very sign of the infinitive mood. There are certain cases where it may be omitted, but it is a settled rule of grammar that whenever the sign is used it must not be separated from the rest of the infinitive by an adverb. "Instead of 'satisfactorily' representing this state of affairs, 'satisfactorily' represents this state of affairs, or 'to represent this state satisfactorily.'"—Quackenbush, § 645. In "Vulgarisms Exposed," page 145, is the rule: "The to of the infinitive mood is inseparable from the verb, and the author goes on to quote the following from a collection of this people, such as 'To boldly realize, To seriously intend, To legally acknowledge, To simply state, To deeply realize, To still exhibit, To rapidly recruit, To gradually change, To not only ruin, &c.' We regret to say that this vulgarism is very common, and is a sign of the infinitive mood. The late President Lincoln introduced many times into nearly or quite all of his messages and public documents. It may be forgiven as a slip of the tongue, but there is no excuse for it in a State paper which must have passed under revision before Congress intended to 'to further provide' for the several objects to which they refer; and our public documents are filled with illustrations of these gross violations of grammatical propriety.

A score of bills have been laid before Congress intended to 'to further provide' for the several objects to which they refer; and our public documents are filled with illustrations of these gross violations of grammatical propriety.

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The Castle by the Sea.

(Translated from the German of Uhlend by Miss N. W. J.)

Has then ever that high old castle,
That sits by the sea,
Golden and rosy from the clouds
Over it constantly.

So often it seems to bow
To itself in the evening clouds,
So high it mounts in the evening clouds,
A flame its turret hie.

Ah! well indeed have I seen it,
That castle by the sea,
Golden and rosy from the clouds,
Enfolded it silently.

Did the wind and the moving waters
Give out a merry song?
Did the wind and the moving waters
Sing the halcyon song?

The winds and the waves lay resting
In deep tranquillity;
A plaintive wailing came from the sea,
And the crown with golden hair.

Did the crown with golden hair
Sing the halcyon song?
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AUCTION SALES—This Day.

By R. S. Anderson & Son,
General Commission Merchants and Auctioneers,
1204 Main street.

WE WILL SELL TO-DAY AT 11 A.M.
CLOCK, A LOT OF CURED HERRINGS,
RUMP PORK,
HARDENED BUTTER, CUT HERRINGS,
MACKEREL (In bulk),
CHEESE, SALT, &c., &c.

TERMS: Cash on delivery.
By J. D. Whitehead & Co.,
General Commission Merchants and Auctioneers,
1512 Main street.

WE WILL OFFER AT AUCTION
MONDAY, 19th instant, commencing at half
past 10 o'clock A.M. a large and desirable stock
of GROCERIES, including the following:—
RICE, CORN, BEANS, PEAS, &c., &c.

By J. D. Whitehead & Co.,
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